

Remarks

The Office Action mailed March 9, 2007 and made final has been carefully reviewed and the following comments have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-17 and 21-25 are pending in this application. Claims 1-17 and 21-25 stand rejected. Claims 18-20 were previously cancelled.

The rejection of Claims 1-17 and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts at page 2 that “Claims 1-17 and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.” The Office Action further asserts that “Claims 1, 8 and 21 disclose ‘the user to select...from a list of business communities’” and that the “examiner cannot find any type of reference within the Specification to a user selecting from a ‘list of business communities’ the only mention of a user selecting anything pertains to a user selecting from the search results, there is no mention of a list.” Applicants respectfully traverse these assertions.

Applicants continue to traverse these assertions and incorporate herein by reference the arguments that Applicants previously submitted with respect to this rejection in its Amendment dated December 11, 2006.

However, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this patent application, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 8 and 21 to no longer specifically recite “the user to select...from a list of business communities”. Rather, for example, Claim 1 recites “assigning the user to at least one customized business community by enabling the user to input the at least one customized business community into the computer”. Claims 8 and 21 have been similarly amended. Accordingly, since the recitation “from a list of business communities” has been removed from Claims 1, 8 and 21, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 8 and 21 satisfy Section 112, first paragraph.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submits that Claims 1, 8 and 21 satisfy Section 112, first paragraph.

Claims 18-20 have been previously cancelled. Claims 2-7, 9-17 and 22-25 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claims 1, 8 and 21. When the recitations of Claims

2-7, 9-17 and 22-25 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claims 1, 8 and 21, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2-7, 9-17 and 22-25 likewise satisfy Section 112, first paragraph.

In addition, the Office Action asserts at page 3 that “Claims 2 and 10 disclose ‘business community button’; ‘sub-business community button’ and ‘customized business community button’” and that the “examiner cannot find any type of reference within the Specification to ‘buttons’”. Applicants respectfully traverse these assertions.

Applicants continue to traverse these assertions and incorporate herein by reference the arguments that Applicants previously submitted with respect to this rejection in its Amendment dated December 11, 2006.

However, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this patent application, Applicants have amended Claims 2 and 10 to no longer specifically recite “buttons”. Rather, for example, Claim 2 recites “a user interactive selection bar that enables the user to display a subset of the search results by selecting a location on the selection bar that corresponds with the subset of the search results to be displayed” wherein the selection bar includes “a business community location on the selection bar”, “a sub-business community location on the selection bar” and “a customized business community location on the selection bar”. Claim 10 includes similar recitations. Applicants respectfully submit that the recitations of Claims 2 and 10 are fully supported by the originally filed specification.

Specifically, the originally filed specification clearly describes a user interactive selection bar that enables a user to display a subset of the search results by selecting a location on the selection bar that corresponds with the subset of the search results to be displayed. The figures also show the selection bar. The selection bar allows a user to display the search results for the community or communities associated with certain locations on the selection bar. For example, the specification at pages 5-6, paragraph 0024-0026 provides in relevant part as follows:

More particularly, each search result includes a community identifier, and the processor is programmed to cause to be displayed only the search results corresponding to communities (i.e., vectors) selected by the user via the user interface. In the example, the operator can select from four different types of search results to view. A first type of search result that can be viewed includes all search results, i.e., the search results for all databases searched on the system. A second type of search result has vector 1 type results, i.e., the

search results for the vector 1 type databases. A third type of search result has vector 2 type results, i.e., the search results for the vector 2 type databases. A fourth type of search result has vector 3 type results, i.e., the search results for the vector 3 type databases. The search results are along a continuum from broad to narrow, with the first type of being a most broad result and the fourth type of search result being a most narrow result.

An operator can select which type of search result should be displayed by simply making a selection on the user interface, e.g., via a web page. By allowing an operator to “zoom” in on the search results, e.g., move from viewing the very broad search result to the very narrow search result, the operator may more quickly find the specific information being sought. As used herein, the term zoom refers to narrowing search results from a more broad search result to a more narrow search result.

Of course, there are many different ways in which to implement the zoom search capability. One example implementation is described below in connection with Figures 4, 5, 6, and 7, which illustrate example pages/screen shots based on an operator selection of the type of results to be viewed. The example pages illustrated in Figures 4, 5, 6, and 7 are generated based on the system and databases described above in Figures 1, 2, and 3. Therefore, the zoom function is based on moving from a broadly defined community to a more narrowly defined, customized community. As explained above, the zoom function can be practiced in connection with many different types of architectures rather than a community based architecture.

By way of further example, pages 7-9, paragraph 0030-0037 of the specification provide in relevant part as follows:

Referring now to Figure 4, the web page includes a user interactive selection bar on which a user can select the search results to be displayed. Figure 4 illustrates a first type of search result in which the search results for an entire system database (in this case, the SupportCentral database) are displayed for viewing by a user.

To narrow the search results to be displayed, and referring now to Figure 5, the user simply selects a next type of search result on the selection bar. Of course, the user need not select any one of the possible types of search results in any order. For example, rather than viewing the search results sequentially from most broad to most narrow, an operator can select to view the most narrow search results immediately after viewing the most broad search results.

As shown in Figure 5, the user has selected to view the type 2 (vector 1) results, which are the search results based on the searching conducted in the databases that comprise the user's business community....

Figure 6 illustrates a further narrowing of the search results to be displayed from vector 1 to vector 2. Specifically, the search results obtained by searching the databases of the sub-business are displayed on the page illustrated in Figure 6....

Figure 7 illustrates an even further narrowing of the search results to the users customized communities. *As explained above, these are the user selected communities in which the user may have a particular interest.* The search results obtained by searching the databases of the customized communities are displayed on the page illustrated in Figure 7....

The above described zoom function provides the advantage that a user can easily and quickly narrow or broaden the search results to be viewed without having to conduct an entirely new search. Rather, the search results for a particular community, or for the entire system, can be easily and readily displayed to a user for viewing.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the originally filed specification and Figures 4-7 clearly describe the recitations of Claims 2 and 10 as amended herein. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 2 and 10 satisfy Section 112, first paragraph.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2 and 10 satisfy Section 112, first paragraph.

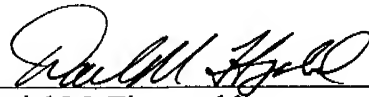
In addition, the Office Action asserts at page 3 that “Claim 22 discloses ‘a business community selector, a sub-business community selector and a customized business community selector ’” and that the “examiner cannot find any type of reference within the Specification to ‘selector’”. Applicants respectfully traverse these assertions.

However, Applicants have amended Claims 11 and 22 to remove the term “selector”. For example, Claim 22 recites “displays on the user interface the search zoom tool including a user interactive selection bar that enables the user to display a subset of the search results by selecting a location on the selection bar that corresponds with the subset of the search results to be displayed, and wherein the selection bar includes a business community location on the selection bar, a sub-business community location on the selection bar, and a customized business community location on the selection bar”. Claim 11 has been similarly amended. For the same reasons set forth above with respect to Claims 2 and 10, Applicants submit that Claims 11 and 22 also satisfy Section 112, first paragraph.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-17 and 21-25 under Section 112, first paragraph be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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